

REMARKS

Summary of the Amendment

Upon entry of the present Amendment, Claims 1, 8, and 16 will have been amended and Claims 15 and 17-26 will have been canceled. Accordingly, Claims 1-14 and 16 remain pending in the present application. By the present Amendment and Remarks, Applicant submits that the rejections and objections have been overcome, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application.

Canceled Claims

Applicant canceled Claims 15 and 17-26 without prejudice and reserves the right to re-present these claims at a later time. As such, Applicant submits that the rejections with respect to these claims are now moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw any rejections directed to these claims.

Traversal of Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-14, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,181,434 to Matsumoto.

Independent Claims 1, 8, and 16

Applicant's independent Claims 1, 8, and 16 as amended recite, *inter alia*, ... examining a process running on each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses through the network. On the other hand, Applicant submits that Matsumoto does not teach the aforementioned features of the amended claims. Because Matsumoto fails to disclose the above-noted features of the present invention, Applicant submits that Matsumoto fails to disclose each and every feature of the present invention as recited in Independent Claims 1, 8, and 16. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of Independent Claims 1, 8, and 16 be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims 2-7 and 9-14

Applicant further submits that dependent Claims 2-7 and 9-14 are allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent Claims 1 and 8 and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Traversal of Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 4 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto in view of U.S. 2002/0097423 to Qiao. As discussed above, Applicant submits that Matsumoto does not teach *inter alia*, examining a process running on each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses through the network. Further, Applicant submits that Qiao does teach the above noted features. Since Matsumoto and Qiao fail to disclose the above-noted features of the present invention, Applicant submits that the references fail to disclose each and every feature of the present invention as recited in Claims 4 and 11. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of Claims 4 and 11 be withdrawn.

Application is Allowable

Applicant respectfully submits that each and every pending claim on the present invention meets the requirements for patentability and respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate allowance of such claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record anticipate or render obvious the Applicant's invention as recited in Claims 1-14 and 16. The applied reference of record has been discussed and distinguished, while the significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Further, any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 502456.

Respectfully submitted,

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